

# Route 5 Bridge over Osage Fork River



Replacement of the Route 5 Bridge over the Osage Fork River will have an “adverse effect” on the existing historic bridge.

Designed by the Missouri State Highway Department (MSHD) and built in 1932-33 by Kelly and Underwood, Bridge J0881 consists of three steel, rigid-connected Warren pony trusses with polygonal upper chords all supported on concrete abutments, wingwalls, and dumbbell piers. The total bridge length is 307 feet with a maximum span length of 103 feet; the roadway width is 24 feet curb-to-curb, with a maximum deck width of 25 feet outside-to-outside. The bridge is historically significant as an excellent, early example of MSHD long-span pony truss design. In 1992, it was one of 15 surviving polygonal subtype bridges built in the state in the 1930s and 1940s. By 2011, only eight of these still existed and Bridge J0881 is the oldest and the longest. It fulfills eligibility criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C in the area of Engineering.

Mitigation of the “adverse effect” will be undertaken as stipulated in a proposed Memorandum of Agreement to be signed by state and federal agencies. In addition to marketing and relocation efforts, the historic bridge will be documented before it is replaced with a new structure. Archival photographs and historical documentation will be prepared for curation at the James C. Kirkpatrick State Information Center in Jefferson City and a local repository. Additional measures will be considered in consultation with state and federal agencies and other interested parties.

